

HOUSE BILL 503
By Garrett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-511,
relative to determination of death.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-511, is amended by adding the language "in a hospice" after the words "pronouncement of death" and before the words "under the following circumstances".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-511, is further amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following as new subsections (b) and (c):

(b) A registered nurse may make the actual determination and pronouncement of death in a nursing home under the following circumstances:

- (1) The deceased was a resident of a nursing home;
- (2) Death was anticipated, and the attending physician or nursing home medical director has agreed in writing to sign the death certificate.
Such agreement by the attending physician or nursing home medical director must be present and with the deceased at the place of death;
- (3) The nurse is licensed by the state; and

(4) The nurse is employed by the nursing home in which the deceased resided.

(c) A registered nurse may make the actual determination and pronouncement of death in a hospital under the following circumstances:

(1) The deceased was a patient of the hospital with a known terminal condition, with the expectation of death and a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order in the deceased's hospital chart;

(2) Death was anticipated and the attending physician has agreed in writing to sign the death certificate;

(3) The nurse is licensed by the state; and

(4) The nurse is employed by the hospital in which the deceased was a patient.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.